

THE PENSION-HATERS' PROGRAM.

The pension-hating coalition have at length completed a plan of campaign, and they are so confident of its ultimate success that they have no hesitation in publishing it to the world, that all may know just what they contemplate doing. They are emboldened to this by the result of the elections last Fall, which they assert was a popular and unmistakable condemnation of the whole pension system. The Philadelphia Times, which is the leading anti-pension paper in that city, gives the campaign plan to the world, and supports it with all its editorial power. It is as follows:

1. Repeat the disability feature of the pension law last year, and make it apply only to cases of dependent soldiers who have rendered actual military service.
2. Repeat all pensions granted by special acts of Congress, excepting those granted to widows of soldiers who should exceptional favor upon the merits of the Nation. Under our present exceedingly liberal pension laws, all who cannot obtain a pension by regular application should be excluded.
3. Repeat all pensions granted to soldiers who are awarded only \$2 or \$4 per month. Such pensions imply no disability as should be necessary to obtain a pension.
4. Every pensioned soldier who holds a civil office, National, State, or local, that pays a larger salary than his pension, should have his pension suspended during his official term.
5. Every soldier provided for in a Soldiers' Home should receive no pension while thus cared for. If his disability is proved by military service and he has a dependent family, it should be provided for.
6. The attorney or pension-agent for in every pending case should be reduced to \$1 for each application, and no fee whatever should be allowed in any new application. This would save the soldiers of the country many millions and tear up pension frauds by the roots.

2. Competent tribunals, composed entirely of civilians, should be authorized in every community to receive and perfect every pension application without cost to the applicant, and also to review every pension already granted, on application of any citizen presenting probable cause for such inquiry.

This has the one merit of frankness. It is an open, full-front attack upon nearly every principle for which the Grand Army of the Republic has been struggling for years, and upon which it appealed to the people and won a victory.

The first proposition is for the repeal of legislation for which the comrades as a body contended for fully 10 years, and through five Congresses—upon which Mr. Cleveland was defeated for re-election, and upon which Gen. Harrison gained the Chief Magistracy.

The second would reserve widows' pensions mainly to those women who have political influence.

Instead of doing justice to pensioners by raising all allowances to at least \$8 a month, for which the comrades have vainly contended, the third proposition would cut off altogether tens of thousands of good soldiers as were in the army, and deprive them even of the meager relief now given them.

The fourth proposition is almost unjust. What pension an official may be receiving has no more to do with his salary than it would have with the price paid him for saving a cord of wood. He renders certain service to the Government, State or Municipality, and is paid by the one or the other for it, just as a private party would pay him so much for plowing an acre of corn or laying a thousand bricks. The pension is absolutely outside of the matter in one case as the other.

The fifth proposition is of the same character.

The sixth proposition is intended to stop pension-getting by depriving the veteran of the assistance of an attorney. No attorney could afford to pay any attention whatever to pension cases for such a fee. The present fees are so low that the vast majority of attorneys in the country will not touch a pension case, except as a matter of friendship for some particular claimant, and no attorney can make the business profitable unless a large number of cases are concentrated in his hands. To cut down the fees would be to drive the best and most competent attorneys entirely out of the business, and leave the veterans a prey to shysters and incompetents, and effectually stop nearly all pension allowances. This is what the soldier-haters hope to accomplish by attacking pension attorneys.

Think of the meanness of the seventh proposition. Every soldier's pension, present or prospective, to be submitted to a committee of citizens from the membership of which every man who served in the army shall be excluded. This committee, probably, made up of old fossil copperheads and stay-at-homes, who believed that "men went to war to make money, and were paid well for all they did," would take precious good care that very few pension cases were allowed. Or if the committee should be made up of political strikers, it would follow that pensions would be given those "who voted right," and the loss of his pension would be held over every pensioner in terror, to make him support "the regular ticket." A more abominable scheme, in every way, could not be devised.

We are much obliged to the pension-haters for thus clearly outlining their intentions. Veterans will know just exactly what to expect from them.

We call especial attention of all our readers to the letter from Hon. Robert P. Porter, Superintendent of the Census, published in another column. It relates to a matter of interest to every veteran, and we trust that each will consider it so. Unless this is done the census of the living veterans will fall far short of what was hoped for it. The Census enumerators were allowed but five cents for each name of a veteran, with his military history. It is unreasonable to expect that they would expend much time and labor in getting this accurately. Consequently, in a great number of cases, nothing has been gotten but the name and the fact that its bearer served in the Union army. To remedy this defect the Census Bureau has sent to each one a blank to be filled out by him as to his service. This should be done at once, and the blank returned to the Census Bureau. Everyone will see its importance.

THE COMMANDANT OF MARINES.

Having reached the age-limit established by law, Col. George G. McCawley retires this week from the command of the Marine Corps, which he has held for 15 years, and completes an honorable, active service in various grades in the Corps of 44 years, he having entered it March 3, 1847, as a Second Lieutenant.

The question of his successor is one of lively interest in the Navy Department, since the law expressly provides that the appointment shall be made by selection, which implies, if it does not actually provide, that seniority may be disregarded by the President in choosing the Commandant of the Corps. Commandant McCawley was taken from some distance down the list, and given the place he has filled with entire credit.

Among those who are being pressed by their friends upon the President's attention is Maj. Green Clay Goodloe, the present Paymaster of the Corps, and who has unquestionably more friends and active supporters among the officers than any other candidate. He has been an officer in the Corps since April 21, 1869, and has rendered excellent service. His record is unimpeachable, and his unusual fitness for the position is conceded by everyone.

Maj. Goodloe's appointment would be exceedingly gratifying to the comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic, and to the loyal men of the Border States, who did such grand service for the Union during the war of the rebellion. Of the latter class, there can be found no more typical representative than he. He belongs to a family which has maintained a leading place in Kentucky for generations by the distinction achieved by its members in civil and military positions. His ancestors were officers in the patriot army in the Revolution. His great grandfather was Gen. Green Clay, who served with distinction in the war of the Revolution and 1812. One of his noted achievements was marching a force to the relief of Gen. W. H. Harrison, then besieged by a superior force of British and Indians at Fort Meigs, on the Maumee River. He floated down the river to the fort and helped drive the enemy away. Gen. Harrison put him in command of one wing of the army, numbering about 3,000 men.

His grandfather was Col. John Speed Smith, who was Aid to Gen. W. H. Harrison in the war of 1812. An uncle is the veteran Gen. Cassius M. Clay, a Captain in the Mexican war, a pioneer in the work of abolishing slavery, a Major-General in the war of the rebellion, Minister to Russia, etc. Another uncle is Gen. Green Clay Smith, who served in the Mexican war, and was Major-General in the Union army.

When the rebellion became imminent, the family threw its powerful influence on the side of the Union, and no one thing did more to hold the State—which wavered for a long time—true to her allegiance. Maj. Goodloe, then a boy of 16, resided with his parents at Lexington, Ky. Actuated by the soldierly traditions of his family, he was even then a member of a military company—the Lexington Chasseurs—which was loyal to the flag, while the other two companies in the city—now commanded by the afterward noted raider, John H. Morgan, and the other by Robert B. Breckinridge—were strongly secessionist. The two latter companies went into the rebellion in a body, while the Chasseurs furnished 40 officers to the Union army. Maj. Goodloe was a marker in the company, and carried the United States flag the last time it appeared in a parade of the Old Kentucky State Guard. He was ordered by Col. Roger W. Hanson, the Colonel in command, to take it out of the ranks, and this precipitated the dissensions which drew a sharp line between the Union and Secession portions of the Guard and broke it up. Hanson was afterward a Brigadier-General in the rebel army. Maj. Goodloe, with the rest of his family, became active at once on the side of the Union, and he, with two others, were the first to arrive at the depot at Lexington, when it seemed inevitable that a fight must be made to secure for the Union troops the arms which had been sent them by the Government.

He at once joined a Union regiment—the 4th Ky. Cav.—which he reached as it stood in line of battle to receive the attack of the enemy, and served with it for some time, acting as Adjutant. For his gallant conduct at the battle of Lebanon, Ky., Gen. Dumont recommended his promotion, while still on the field, to First Lieutenant. When the promotion came he was assigned to Co. I, 23d Ky., and was next ordered to duty on the staff of Gen. Green Clay Smith. He served in this capacity on brigade and division staffs during the campaigns through Kentucky and Tennessee. At the action at the Little Harpeth he was the only man who broke through the rebel lines and effected his escape. He was with his command in its numerous engagements with Forrest and other rebel cavalry leaders, and was everywhere commended for zeal and gallantry. Every official report contained flattering mention of him.

He was Senior Vice Commander of the first Post of the Grand Army of the Republic established in Kentucky.

After the war he graduated in law, and in 1869 was appointed Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

Thoroughly in love with his profession, he has kept pace with every improvement in the service, and is an earnest advocate of all that will increase the soldiership and efficiency of the Corps. He is thoroughly progressive, fully informed as to the needs and capacity of the organization, and if he should be selected for Commandant he would leave nothing undone to raise it to the highest possible efficiency. This is the reason that his promotion is so strongly urged by the

THE KNIGHT'S ADVENTURE.

Unsuccessful Effort of Lions to Breakfast of a Crusader.

As we have said before, this appointment would be particularly gratifying to the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic and the loyal people of the Border States. He is the only candidate that has a record of volunteer service, and his is of the very best, and his appointment would be a particularly graceful and just recognition of the classes that he so well represents.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Your letter of Jan. 7, making inquiry as to the progress being made by this office in the collection of statistics relating to the surviving Union veterans, is received. In reply, I beg to state that the work of examining and verifying the schedules of the enumerators and correcting and perfecting the records of service of the soldiers whose names appear thereon, is now in progress, and until it is fully completed it will be impossible to give absolutely correct figures as to the number of surviving veterans, widows, etc., and it is impracticable to give even an approximate estimate at present.

It is the purpose of this office to make the forthcoming roster of the veterans what it was designed to be by Congress, and what it is desired to be by the surviving soldiers themselves; as nearly an accurate directory of the names, addresses and records of those who, living to-day, participated in the late war on the Union side, as it is possible to produce under the circumstances. This, as you can easily understand, is a work of great difficulty. There are not only serious obstacles in the way of securing a complete list of the names and addresses of the hundreds of thousands of soldiers and soldiers' widows in this country, but it is an even more difficult matter to procure and establish the accuracy of the records of service.

It might be supposed that the information returned by the census enumerators concerning these military services, having been obtained from the soldiers themselves, must be correct in each instance. This, however, is not the case. As a matter of fact, many of those whose names appear upon the schedules were not met by the enumerators; they were away from home, perhaps, when they called, or from some cause the particulars of their service were furnished by members of their households or their neighbors; thousands upon thousands of the soldiers themselves have given erroneous records, or incomplete ones; carelessly so in many cases, through ignorance in others; other thousands have claimed services rendered continuously from and to certain dates, when in fact they served at various times, but not continuously, in different organizations, perhaps in different arms of the service; or were "consolidated" or transferred from one regiment to another as the exigencies of the service demanded, or as their several commands became depleted by the fortunes of war. In a very large number of cases enumerators have neglected to enter names on the special schedules, and from the population schedules only the bare fact is learned that service was rendered in the army or navy, and the postoffice address obtained. Other and numerous causes have operated to prevent a correct enumeration in the first instance, and all the information lacking must be and is now being obtained, either through correspondence with the individual soldiers themselves or the Adjutants-General of their States, consultation with State records, where authentic ones have been published, which is the case in several States, or examination of original papers wherever they may be found.

The law did not provide for collecting this information as to any but Union soldiers, but it was believed that it would be just as easy in asking the question as to whether a person served in the war to inquire also on which side. This was done by the enumerators, and consequently the population schedules show the names and addresses of Confederate as well as Union soldiers. This information, however, as to Confederate soldiers will not be tabulated, as it is not authorized by the Census Act.

It is believed that the work of the Census Office can be much facilitated, and the difficulties largely overcome through the influence of your paper and others of like character, and it is hoped that you will endeavor to interest your reader in this matter, and if possible enlist their co-operation at least to the extent of furnishing this office at once with the names, addresses, and particulars of service, of such soldiers as they may have reason to think were overlooked by the enumerators, and even of those about whom any doubt may exist as to their having been enumerated. I should be pleased to have you emphasize the importance of this to the veterans themselves, as it is they who are the most nearly interested in whatever pertains to the history or the welfare of their war-time comrades.

Very respectfully, ROBERT P. PORTER, Superintendent of Census.

We respectfully call the attention of the Farmers' Alliance and others interested in preventing the evils of speculation in produce to the case of "Old Hatch," for many years the king of speculators on the Chicago Board of Trade. It appears that in the 20 years that he has been the leading spirit in grain gambling he has lost just \$19,000,000, or nearly \$1,000,000 a year. To a thinking man this would seem to indicate how much more efficacious the laws of business are than any which could be passed by a Legislature or by Congress to restrain gambling. It is entirely incredible that any legal system could be adopted which would lay hold of men of Mr. Hutchinson's stamp, and fine them \$1,000,000, or one-hundredth part of that sum, for their iniquitous practices in "forestalling," "cornering" and otherwise manipulating the grain market. Yet the inexorable laws of trade do this, and mete out punishment with absolute certainty. In Mr. Hutchinson's case there was none of the customary chicanery by which justice is defeated. That is, there were no disagreeing juries, no appeals to higher courts, no arrests of judgment. The punishment for the offense followed immediately upon its commission, and the enormous fines were collected on the same day by Mr. Hutchinson's fellow-gamblers. Speculation, with all its attendant features, is a grave offense against sound business laws, and its punishment as severe and certain as that of offenses against the laws of health.

GROANS over the robbery of the Indians of their lands may as well be mitigated somewhat. The 244,000 Indians in Columbia's fair domain have yet left to them fully 100,000,000 acres to roam over. This is more than 400 acres apiece for every buck, squaw and papoose, and some of it is the very best land that the sun shines on.

THE KNIGHT'S ADVENTURE.

Unsuccessful Effort of Lions to Breakfast of a Crusader.

As we have said before, this appointment would be particularly gratifying to the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic and the loyal people of the Border States. He is the only candidate that has a record of volunteer service, and his is of the very best, and his appointment would be a particularly graceful and just recognition of the classes that he so well represents.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Your letter of Jan. 7, making inquiry as to the progress being made by this office in the collection of statistics relating to the surviving Union veterans, is received. In reply, I beg to state that the work of examining and verifying the schedules of the enumerators and correcting and perfecting the records of service of the soldiers whose names appear thereon, is now in progress, and until it is fully completed it will be impossible to give absolutely correct figures as to the number of surviving veterans, widows, etc., and it is impracticable to give even an approximate estimate at present.

It is the purpose of this office to make the forthcoming roster of the veterans what it was designed to be by Congress, and what it is desired to be by the surviving soldiers themselves; as nearly an accurate directory of the names, addresses and records of those who, living to-day, participated in the late war on the Union side, as it is possible to produce under the circumstances. This, as you can easily understand, is a work of great difficulty. There are not only serious obstacles in the way of securing a complete list of the names and addresses of the hundreds of thousands of soldiers and soldiers' widows in this country, but it is an even more difficult matter to procure and establish the accuracy of the records of service.

It might be supposed that the information returned by the census enumerators concerning these military services, having been obtained from the soldiers themselves, must be correct in each instance. This, however, is not the case. As a matter of fact, many of those whose names appear upon the schedules were not met by the enumerators; they were away from home, perhaps, when they called, or from some cause the particulars of their service were furnished by members of their households or their neighbors; thousands upon thousands of the soldiers themselves have given erroneous records, or incomplete ones; carelessly so in many cases, through ignorance in others; other thousands have claimed services rendered continuously from and to certain dates, when in fact they served at various times, but not continuously, in different organizations, perhaps in different arms of the service; or were "consolidated" or transferred from one regiment to another as the exigencies of the service demanded, or as their several commands became depleted by the fortunes of war. In a very large number of cases enumerators have neglected to enter names on the special schedules, and from the population schedules only the bare fact is learned that service was rendered in the army or navy, and the postoffice address obtained. Other and numerous causes have operated to prevent a correct enumeration in the first instance, and all the information lacking must be and is now being obtained, either through correspondence with the individual soldiers themselves or the Adjutants-General of their States, consultation with State records, where authentic ones have been published, which is the case in several States, or examination of original papers wherever they may be found.

The law did not provide for collecting this information as to any but Union soldiers, but it was believed that it would be just as easy in asking the question as to whether a person served in the war to inquire also on which side. This was done by the enumerators, and consequently the population schedules show the names and addresses of Confederate as well as Union soldiers. This information, however, as to Confederate soldiers will not be tabulated, as it is not authorized by the Census Act.

It is believed that the work of the Census Office can be much facilitated, and the difficulties largely overcome through the influence of your paper and others of like character, and it is hoped that you will endeavor to interest your reader in this matter, and if possible enlist their co-operation at least to the extent of furnishing this office at once with the names, addresses, and particulars of service, of such soldiers as they may have reason to think were overlooked by the enumerators, and even of those about whom any doubt may exist as to their having been enumerated. I should be pleased to have you emphasize the importance of this to the veterans themselves, as it is they who are the most nearly interested in whatever pertains to the history or the welfare of their war-time comrades.

Very respectfully, ROBERT P. PORTER, Superintendent of Census.

We respectfully call the attention of the Farmers' Alliance and others interested in preventing the evils of speculation in produce to the case of "Old Hatch," for many years the king of speculators on the Chicago Board of Trade. It appears that in the 20 years that he has been the leading spirit in grain gambling he has lost just \$19,000,000, or nearly \$1,000,000 a year. To a thinking man this would seem to indicate how much more efficacious the laws of business are than any which could be passed by a Legislature or by Congress to restrain gambling. It is entirely incredible that any legal system could be adopted which would lay hold of men of Mr. Hutchinson's stamp, and fine them \$1,000,000, or one-hundredth part of that sum, for their iniquitous practices in "forestalling," "cornering" and otherwise manipulating the grain market. Yet the inexorable laws of trade do this, and mete out punishment with absolute certainty. In Mr. Hutchinson's case there was none of the customary chicanery by which justice is defeated. That is, there were no disagreeing juries, no appeals to higher courts, no arrests of judgment. The punishment for the offense followed immediately upon its commission, and the enormous fines were collected on the same day by Mr. Hutchinson's fellow-gamblers. Speculation, with all its attendant features, is a grave offense against sound business laws, and its punishment as severe and certain as that of offenses against the laws of health.

GROANS over the robbery of the Indians of their lands may as well be mitigated somewhat. The 244,000 Indians in Columbia's fair domain have yet left to them fully 100,000,000 acres to roam over. This is more than 400 acres apiece for every buck, squaw and papoose, and some of it is the very best land that the sun shines on.

THE KNIGHT'S ADVENTURE.

Unsuccessful Effort of Lions to Breakfast of a Crusader.

As we have said before, this appointment would be particularly gratifying to the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic and the loyal people of the Border States. He is the only candidate that has a record of volunteer service, and his is of the very best, and his appointment would be a particularly graceful and just recognition of the classes that he so well represents.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Your letter of Jan. 7, making inquiry as to the progress being made by this office in the collection of statistics relating to the surviving Union veterans, is received. In reply, I beg to state that the work of examining and verifying the schedules of the enumerators and correcting and perfecting the records of service of the soldiers whose names appear thereon, is now in progress, and until it is fully completed it will be impossible to give absolutely correct figures as to the number of surviving veterans, widows, etc., and it is impracticable to give even an approximate estimate at present.

It is the purpose of this office to make the forthcoming roster of the veterans what it was designed to be by Congress, and what it is desired to be by the surviving soldiers themselves; as nearly an accurate directory of the names, addresses and records of those who, living to-day, participated in the late war on the Union side, as it is possible to produce under the circumstances. This, as you can easily understand, is a work of great difficulty. There are not only serious obstacles in the way of securing a complete list of the names and addresses of the hundreds of thousands of soldiers and soldiers' widows in this country, but it is an even more difficult matter to procure and establish the accuracy of the records of service.

It might be supposed that the information returned by the census enumerators concerning these military services, having been obtained from the soldiers themselves, must be correct in each instance. This, however, is not the case. As a matter of fact, many of those whose names appear upon the schedules were not met by the enumerators; they were away from home, perhaps, when they called, or from some cause the particulars of their service were furnished by members of their households or their neighbors; thousands upon thousands of the soldiers themselves have given erroneous records, or incomplete ones; carelessly so in many cases, through ignorance in others; other thousands have claimed services rendered continuously from and to certain dates, when in fact they served at various times, but not continuously, in different organizations, perhaps in different arms of the service; or were "consolidated" or transferred from one regiment to another as the exigencies of the service demanded, or as their several commands became depleted by the fortunes of war. In a very large number of cases enumerators have neglected to enter names on the special schedules, and from the population schedules only the bare fact is learned that service was rendered in the army or navy, and the postoffice address obtained. Other and numerous causes have operated to prevent a correct enumeration in the first instance, and all the information lacking must be and is now being obtained, either through correspondence with the individual soldiers themselves or the Adjutants-General of their States, consultation with State records, where authentic ones have been published, which is the case in several States, or examination of original papers wherever they may be found.

The law did not provide for collecting this information as to any but Union soldiers, but it was believed that it would be just as easy in asking the question as to whether a person served in the war to inquire also on which side. This was done by the enumerators, and consequently the population schedules show the names and addresses of Confederate as well as Union soldiers. This information, however, as to Confederate soldiers will not be tabulated, as it is not authorized by the Census Act.

It is believed that the work of the Census Office can be much facilitated, and the difficulties largely overcome through the influence of your paper and others of like character, and it is hoped that you will endeavor to interest your reader in this matter, and if possible enlist their co-operation at least to the extent of furnishing this office at once with the names, addresses, and particulars of service, of such soldiers as they may have reason to think were overlooked by the enumerators, and even of those about whom any doubt may exist as to their having been enumerated. I should be pleased to have you emphasize the importance of this to the veterans themselves, as it is they who are the most nearly interested in whatever pertains to the history or the welfare of their war-time comrades.

Very respectfully, ROBERT P. PORTER, Superintendent of Census.

We respectfully call the attention of the Farmers' Alliance and others interested in preventing the evils of speculation in produce to the case of "Old Hatch," for many years the king of speculators on the Chicago Board of Trade. It appears that in the 20 years that he has been the leading spirit in grain gambling he has lost just \$19,000,000, or nearly \$1,000,000 a year. To a thinking man this would seem to indicate how much more efficacious the laws of business are than any which could be passed by a Legislature or by Congress to restrain gambling. It is entirely incredible that any legal system could be adopted which would lay hold of men of Mr. Hutchinson's stamp, and fine them \$1,000,000, or one-hundredth part of that sum, for their iniquitous practices in "forestalling," "cornering" and otherwise manipulating the grain market. Yet the inexorable laws of trade do this, and mete out punishment with absolute certainty. In Mr. Hutchinson's case there was none of the customary chicanery by which justice is defeated. That is, there were no disagreeing juries, no appeals to higher courts, no arrests of judgment. The punishment for the offense followed immediately upon its commission, and the enormous fines were collected on the same day by Mr. Hutchinson's fellow-gamblers. Speculation, with all its attendant features, is a grave offense against sound business laws, and its punishment as severe and certain as that of offenses against the laws of health.

GROANS over the robbery of the Indians of their lands may as well be mitigated somewhat. The 244,000 Indians in Columbia's fair domain have yet left to them fully 100,000,000 acres to roam over. This is more than 400 acres apiece for every buck, squaw and papoose, and some of it is the very best land that the sun shines on.

THE KNIGHT'S ADVENTURE.

Unsuccessful Effort of Lions to Breakfast of a Crusader.

As we have said before, this appointment would be particularly gratifying to the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic and the loyal people of the Border States. He is the only candidate that has a record of volunteer service, and his is of the very best, and his appointment would be a particularly graceful and just recognition of the classes that he so well represents.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Your letter of Jan. 7, making inquiry as to the progress being made by this office in the collection of statistics relating to the surviving Union veterans, is received. In reply, I beg to state that the work of examining and verifying the schedules of the enumerators and correcting and perfecting the records of service of the soldiers whose names appear thereon, is now in progress, and until it is fully completed it will be impossible to give absolutely correct figures as to the number of surviving veterans, widows, etc., and it is impracticable to give even an approximate estimate at present.

It is the purpose of this office to make the forthcoming roster of the veterans what it was designed to be by Congress, and what it is desired to be by the surviving soldiers themselves; as nearly an accurate directory of the names, addresses and records of those who, living to-day, participated in the late war on the Union side, as it is possible to produce under the circumstances. This, as you can easily understand, is a work of great difficulty. There are not only serious obstacles in the way of securing a complete list of the names and addresses of the hundreds of thousands of soldiers and soldiers' widows in this country, but it is an even more difficult matter to procure and establish the accuracy of the records of service.

It might be supposed that the information returned by the census enumerators concerning these military services, having been obtained from the soldiers themselves, must be correct in each instance. This, however, is not the case. As a matter of fact, many of those whose names appear upon the schedules were not met by the enumerators; they were away from home, perhaps, when they called, or from some cause the particulars of their service were furnished by members of their households or their neighbors; thousands upon thousands of the soldiers themselves have given erroneous records, or incomplete ones; carelessly so in many cases, through ignorance in others; other thousands have claimed services rendered continuously from and to certain dates, when in fact they served at various times, but not continuously, in different organizations, perhaps in different arms of the service; or were "consolidated" or transferred from one regiment to another as the exigencies of the service demanded, or as their several commands became depleted by the fortunes of war. In a very large number of cases enumerators have neglected to enter names on the special schedules, and from the population schedules only the bare fact is learned that service was rendered in the army or navy, and the postoffice address obtained. Other and numerous causes have operated to prevent a correct enumeration in the first instance, and all the information lacking must be and is now being obtained, either through correspondence with the individual soldiers themselves or the Adjutants-General of their States, consultation with State records, where authentic ones have been published, which is the case in several States, or examination of original papers wherever they may be found.

The law did not provide for collecting this information as to any but Union soldiers, but it was believed that it would be just as easy in asking the question as to whether a person served in the war to inquire also on which side. This was done by the enumerators, and consequently the population schedules show the names and addresses of Confederate as well as Union soldiers. This information, however, as to Confederate soldiers will not be tabulated, as it is not authorized by the Census Act.

It is believed that the work of the Census Office can be much facilitated, and the difficulties largely overcome through the influence of your paper and others of like character, and it is hoped that you will endeavor to interest your reader in this matter, and if possible enlist their co-operation at least to the extent of furnishing this office at once with the names, addresses, and particulars of service, of such soldiers as they may have reason to think were overlooked by the enumerators, and even of those about whom any doubt may exist as to their having been enumerated. I should be pleased to have you emphasize the importance of this to the veterans themselves, as it is they who are the most nearly interested in whatever pertains to the history or the welfare of their war-time comrades.